

*"It is easier to be critical than correct."*

Benjamin Disraeli

# Grey Matters

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Last week, the students and staff of RJG completed the last round of MCAS testing and except for a few make-up sessions, we are done for the year. The students did a great job maintaining a respectful and quiet testing environment. I would like to thank the entire RJG staff for making everything work so well with special acknowledgement to Denis Reedy, Jack Hughes, Debbie Kelloway, Laura Sikalis, Janet Rodero, Caroline O'Brien, Jon Duclos, Margaret Gibbs, Marcia Charter, Brigitte Seeley (TRC) and Marsha Steverman (TRC). MCAS is a monumental task; one that requires tremendous organization and follow through. I have appreciated everyone's commitment to meeting all requirements.

I hope everyone was able to see last week's Spring Band Concert. It was a wonderful performance with some outstanding soloists. I want to make special mention of Chris Baird, Brass Ensemble Director. After watching this group perform, it was easy to see how Chris' tutelage led the Ensemble to receive a Superior Performance award at this year's MICCA competition. Congratulations!

Our talented student body not only includes grand musicians, but outstanding vocalists as well. Don't miss the Spring Chorus concert this Tuesday night, May 20, at 7:30PM. Bob Specian, our Choral Director and music teacher, has been working with our talented 7th and 8th graders all year. This concert promises to be an outstanding show.

For those of you who have been in the building over the last few days, the campaign signs have been hard to miss and the upcoming Student Council elections are scheduled for Wednesday, May 21. The students' enthusiasm as they get involved in this process is exciting to watch. Being a member of the student government is a wonderful opportunity to experience a leadership role and to have a voice in improving the community experience for all RJG members. Parents and guardians, please encourage your child to learn about the candidates and make decisions not simply on friendship, but on who they believe will do the best job. While difficult to do, it's an important learning experience. As we near the end of the campaign process, I also need to ask for your help regarding a few incidents of negative campaigning and vandalism. RJG has always been a supportive and respectful community, and we appreciate your assistance in reinforcing the expectation of respectful behavior.

We are very excited about the end of the year trips scheduled for June 18. Kimball's Farm will be the destination for grade 7 students, and Canobie Lake Park for 8th graders.

If you would like to learn more about these specific locations, information can be found on the websites below:

Kimball's Farm - <http://www.kimballfarm.com>

Canobie Lake Park - <http://www.canobie.com>

Important information regarding end of the year field trips will be coming soon.

We have less than a month left to the end of the year and RJG is as busy as ever. Students are working hard and should be encouraged to stay intrinsically motivated right through to the end of the year. Summer vacation is almost here.

Have a good week.